

Abstract of the Disclosure

Footwear for leaving a personalized imprint on wet sand and other surfaces is accomplished through the removal of material as opposed to previous additive processes. Footwear according to the invention includes a sole portion having a bottom surface with a matrix of projections extending therefrom. Each projection is selectively removable, thereby enabling a user to remove a subset of the projections corresponding to the personalized imprint. The sole portion may form any type of shoe, including sandals, thongs, 'flip-flops,' and so forth. Each projection preferably has a nominal length in the range of 3/16 to 3/8 inch and a nominal width in the range of 1/8 to 3/16 inch, and may be circular, triangular, rectangular, square, or hexagonal in cross-section. The matrix of projections may cover the entire bottom surface of the shoe, or a non-partitioned border may be provided which surrounds the matrix of projections. The sole portion may further be at least partially transparent, enabling the user to view the projections therethrough as they are being removed. In use, a plurality of the projections are selectively removed to produce a mirror image corresponding to the personalized footprint. The sole portion is preferably such that it may be flexed to better expose projections to be removed. In the preferred embodiment, the composition of the projections is such that they may be removed by hand as through 'plucking' without tools, though a pocket knife, nail clippers, spoon or other common implement may be used.